What is claimed is:

1. A method for preserving a corneal explant *ex vivo*, comprising incubating said explant in a solution comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1).

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is ISIS 2302.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said explant is human.

4. A method of inhibiting corneal allograft rejection, comprising contacting the allograft with a topical formulation comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1).

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said antisense oligonucleotide is ISIS 2302.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said allograft is human.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein said topical formulation is a solution.

8. A method for preserving a corneal explant *ex vivo*, comprising incubating said explant in a solution comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to extracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1) or vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1).

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said explant is human.

10. A method for inhibiting corneal allograft rejection, comprising contacting the allograft with a topical formulation comprising an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1) or extracellular adhesion molecule-1 (ELAM-1).

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said allograft is human.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said topical formulation is a solution.